



# PRESS RELEASE

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## **Pennsylvania Mink Pelt Production Up 9 Percent**

HARRISBURG, PA, July 17, 2006 - - Pennsylvania mink pelt production in 2005 totaled 61,000 pelts, up 9 percent from 2004, according to the Pennsylvania Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Average prices for mink pelts produced in Pennsylvania are not available.

Female mink bred to produce kits in 2006 totaled 15,200, up 1 percent from the previous year. Thirty-two percent of the females bred to produce kits are of the black.

United States' mink pelt production in 2005 totaled 2.63 million pelts, up 3 percent from 2004. Wisconsin, the largest mink producing state, produced 778,000 pelts. Utah the second largest producing state, produced 600,000 pelts.

Mink pelts produced during the 2005 crop year were valued at \$160 million dollars, up 33 percent from \$120 million a year ago. The average price per pelt for the 2005 crop year was \$60.90, up from \$47.10 in 2004.

Female mink bred to produce kits in 2006 totaled 651,600, up 2 percent from the previous year. There were 277 mink farms producing pelts in 2005, down 6 percent from a year ago. Leading States were Utah with 70 farms, Wisconsin with 67 farms, and Minnesota with 24.

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